



Congressman Lee M. Zeldin

First Congressional District of New York

June 5, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

Congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary of State and thank you for your continued service. I cannot think of anyone in our country who would be a better appointment for this critical position at this important moment in our nation's history. I write today to express serious concern over Serbia's inadequate efforts to resolve the murders of three brothers, Ylli, 25 years old, Agron, 23 years old, and Mehmet Bytyqi, 21 years old, who were born in the United States, and resided in Hampton Bays, NY.

In July of 1999, these three brothers went overseas towards the end of the Kosovo war and were arrested by Serbian authorities for illegally entering the country when they accidentally crossed into Serbian-controlled territory. The brothers were kidnapped, murdered, and dumped into a mass grave in Serbia by government officials.

Serbian officials have acknowledged that the executions were a state-sponsored murder and promised justice for well over a decade. President Aleksandar Vucic has repeatedly promised to "resolve" the case "very soon." In 2015, President Vucic privately revealed to the Bytyqi family and U.S. officials that his close associate, Goran Radosavljevic, was responsible for the murders. Yet, even to this day, Mr. Vucic has refused to denounce Radosavljevic, who remains a principle advisor to the President and a senior leader of the SNS party. When U.S. Ambassador Kyle Scott and the Bytyqi family questioned this relationship, President Vucic responded that they "should be ashamed" and were trying to "kick me in the head."

It will soon be the 20th anniversary of the executions of the Bytyqi brothers and there have been no charges brought against those responsible for these murders. The Trump Administration's commitment to preserving American leadership and values overseas is very much needed to address this situation. I urge you to use the authority of your office to help pursue long over-due justice for Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet through your work with the Serbian government, and deeply appreciate any assistance you can provide in resolving this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lee Zeldin', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress